

# See **FIRST**, Understand **FIRST**, Act **FIRST**



**First U.S. Army**

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## **First U.S. Army command surgeon's office trains sailors for combat lifesaving**

**By Phil Manson, First Army Public Affairs Office**

Combat medics on the modern battlefield can be the difference between life and death; gaining precious seconds of life as they make split-second decisions amid the fog of battle.

However, on today's ever-expanding battlefields, the number of trained medical personnel, and their ability to provide immediate care in a forward-operating environment, is limited.

To increase survivability on the battlefield, the Army developed the Combat Lifesaver (CLS) course. Three non-commissioned officers from the First Army Command Surgeon's Office put on their joint training hats and taught the CLS to 50 sailors – yes, sailors – in Williamsburg, Va.

One might wonder what sailors would be doing near a battlefield, but the men and women who volunteered for the CLS are destined for customs duty in Kuwait and Iraq.

"We have three companies of naval reservists who will perform personnel, equipment and agricultural customs inspections in Kuwait and Iraq," explained Lt. Karin Burzynski, public affairs officer for the Naval Expeditionary Logistics Support Force.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Damon R. Nunn, First U.S. Army Command Surgeon's Office and one of the instructors, the CLS is a non-medical service member trained to provide emergency care as a secondary mission.

"The CLS provides medical training for non-medical personnel," said Nunn. "The focus of this training is to treat simulated battlefield injuries in a simulated tactical/operational environment."

Skills learned by the students included mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, administering first aid for burns, chemical and biological agents, applying splints to fractured limbs and starting an intravenous (IV) infusion.

Photographer's Mate 1st Class (PH1) James E. Finnigan of Elkhart, Ind., who worked for the U.S. Postal Service before being mobilized, learned a lot from the course.



**Gas Turbine Mechanic 2nd Class Jonathan W. Cummins of Virginia Beach, Va., practices IV insertion and disconnection with Sgt. 1st Class Ralph E. Hurley II of First Army. Photo by Phil Manson**

*See Combat Lifesaving, p. 5*

## Commander's Corner



Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members

"The key to long-term security in Iraq is for all of us to work together to train Iraqi troops to handle their own security measures..." *President George W. Bush*

In our First Army area of operations we are committed to training Soldiers as they will fight. From incorporating Improvised Explosive Device (IED) events into all aspects of theater immersion training to combat lifesaver training and every other event in between, our focus remains on the Soldier. I appreciate all you are doing for these Warriors to ensure their survival under hostile conditions.

Our challenges are immense as we prepare the thousands of Soldiers in the 48th Brigade, the 53rd Brigade and the 2nd Brigade-28th Division for their upcoming missions in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Nearly two hundred First Army trainers from our training support brigades will augment the National Training Center (NTC), Fort Irwin, Calif., for the 48th and the 2-28th's BCT's rotations there.

Our training support brigade, the 2/78th Div. (TS) at Fort Drum, N.Y., will soon deploy to Iraq to train Iraqi forces. We are proud of these troops and what they are sure to accomplish for peace and stability for the Iraqi people.

On the homeland defense front, we will soon have our fourth table top exercise which brings together local, state and regional emergency responders and managers for training collaboration and sharing of information. From November until the end of this March we will have trained more than six-hundred military and civilians to be better prepared in the event of a disaster. We are building relationships for greater trust and speed later on.

We are in the depths of preparing for a NORTH-COM, homeland defense exercise, Ardent Sentry which will involve several hundred First Army Soldiers, civilians and emergency preparedness liaison officers. We will be using our collaborative tools to communicate with our higher and subordinate unit in a scenario driven exercise.

Russel L. Honoré  
Lt. Gen, Commanding  
First U.S. Army

## Improvised Explosive Devices biggest challenge for Army troops

Story and photo by Karen Bradshaw/First Army Public Affairs

The improvised explosive device, or IED, is the single biggest problem for Army troops and convoys in Iraq. Priority one for First Army is to train all deploying Soldiers how to detect, deter, prevent, defeat and respond to IEDs.

To that end, First Army commander Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré and his IED tiger team hosted 51 expert trainers from the eastern half of the United States at First Army headquarters to collaborate on the best IED training techniques.

Honoré said that the purpose of the conference was to share ideas on how to train Soldiers to adapt to the enemy. "We aren't here to standardize training at this conference," he said. "We are here to enhance and improve what we are already doing. Remember this: the enemy has no standards. The enemy isn't reading a book but is adjusting how he attacks on a daily basis. We must think like that."

IED training has become vitally important for Soldiers deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan. First Army trainers teach Soldiers to expect an IED attack 24 hours a day and that anytime is a good time for an IED strike.

"Soldiers will train at their mobilization stations under theater immersion, an Iraqi-like environment where they are jolted by the noise and explosions of simulated attacks at all times of the day and night. With the lessons taught by the trainers using these conditions, Soldiers will be better prepared," said Capt. Sheree Green, G-3 training officer.

For Honoré, this is serious business, and he believes the label "improvised" is somewhat misleading. "The word 'improvised' implies that amateurs are throwing these bombs together and haphazardly using them against us," Honoré said. "That is not what we are dealing with. They are more like 'precision' explosive devices. They are precisely placed, precisely timed and precisely designed to cause casualties. The enemy may not use space age technology, but make no mistake, he knows what he is doing."

*See First Army trains troops, p. 7*

## Conversation with new First Army Command Sgt. Maj.

By Gayle Johnson

A veteran Soldier of 27 years checks in as the new Command Sgt. Maj. for First U. S. Army. Marvin L. Hill assumed the duties of Command Sgt. Maj., First U.S. Army on February 1, 2005 following a tour of duty as Command Sgt. Maj. for the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Fort Campbell Kentucky.

In his role as Command Sgt. Maj., Hill sees himself as the senior enlisted advisor to the commander and the command in all matters affecting Soldiers, all Soldiers. "War time is not the time to split hairs. All Soldiers are important," said Hill.

Hill is eager and excited to be at First Army. For the Soldiers and civilians at First Army, Hill works on a principle he calls the "three A's." He said he will be available, accessible, and approachable. He has one speed – go. "I do the best that I can do. I do what is right. I treat others the way I want to be treated."

When asked what he hoped to accomplish as Command Sgt. Maj., Hill said one of his personal professional goals is to learn all he can about this part of the Army, the Reserve Component piece. He wants to learn all he can to sustain these Soldiers and to keep them in the Army. "Reserve families give a lot. They serve because of the red, white, and blue," said Hill.

Another personal goal for Hill is to serve in the role of teacher, coach, and mentor. He wants to make sure Soldiers have the ability and confidence to complete the mission.

"I have served in every level of NCO leadership. This includes infantry units and combat support units. I deployed a battalion for six months and brigade for six months. I served in Iraq for a year as the division sergeant major. I have a wealth of experience that needs to be tapped into," said Hill.

When asked for his message to the noncommissioned officer corps in First Army, Hill stated that he will not expect anything he hasn't done or won't do himself. "Soldiers should be experts at what they do. Great units do routine things extraordinarily well. I will listen for information and do something with the information."



**Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill.** Photo by Gayle Johnson

Hill believes in the "See first, Understand first, Act first," motto of First Army.

"I will focus inside [headquarters] the wire as much as outside the wire [subordinate units]. I will take care of Soldiers and their careers. Remember, we are Soldiers first, before the NCO, before the job position. When I walk through an airport, people see a Soldier. They don't see a Command Sgt. Maj. Our nation expects Soldiers to know what they are doing: to fight and win our nation's wars."

First U.S. Army welcomes Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin L. Hill and his family.



**Congressman David Scott, US Representative, 13th District of Ga., which includes Clayton County, visits Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré at First Army's Headquarters. First Army is located on Fort Gillem in Clayton county.**



## First Army command and control vehicles in support of homeland security/defense and Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) missions

*Information provided by Mr. Doug Ricker, Deputy Chief of Staff, Resource Management, (G-8)*

The First Army Commander/Deputy Commander are responsible for exercising command and control of Title 10 forces when the Joint Task Force-East (JTF-E) is activated by U. S. Northern Command.

JTF-E coordinates DOD support to the Lead Federal Agency in the event of a Presidential Disaster Declaration. Inherent in this mission is close coordination of disaster response efforts with federal, state, and local authorities.

Communications with these multiple agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, Department of Justice, FBI, Joint Terrorism Task Force, and State Emergency Management agencies requires continuous, mobile, and secure communications capabilities.

First U. S. Army historically has not had this communications capability as experienced during numerous JTF-E exercises and real-world events such as four major hurricanes during the past summer and fall. As a result of this shortfall, First Army identified a requirement for two Command and Control vehicles to the Army Tank and Automotive Command (TACOM).

TACOM validated the requirement and purchased two vehicles capable of accommodating passengers and necessary communications and other associated equipment.

Each vehicle cost about \$50,000 equipped as shown below. Similar C2 vehicles within the Department of Defense cost between \$250,000 and \$500,000.

These vehicles are equipped with high speed satellite terminals that provide the commander over-the-horizon communications when local infrastructure is saturated or destroyed. The terminals also provide the capability to access the internet, send and receive e-mails, conduct video conferencing, send a fax or speak on the phone anywhere on the globe. These vehicles will also provide the commander secure voice, e-mail, and video conferencing capabilities.

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These vehicles are now fully mission capable and are available to support the JTF-E during future Homeland Security and DSCA missions.

*See photos on p., 12*

## Honoré speaks to AUSA breakfast group on First Army mission

*By Karen Bradshaw*

Holding court with a rapt AUSA audience of about one-hundred Soldiers and civilians at a breakfast at the Commons, Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, First U.S. Army commander, wasted no time pointing out the dynamic environment at First Army, a command charged with training and mobilizing Army National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers in the eastern half of the United States.



*Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré*

Explaining the importance of the National Guard and Army Reserve Soldiers to the Army's missions, Honoré emphasized that training these mobilized Soldiers to a competency that allows them to "come back alive" is number one on the First Army agenda. "We update our training for the Afghan and Iraqi theater, almost on a daily basis," said Honoré.

"We train Soldiers repetitively, so their responses become intuitive. We use theater immersion training, putting the troops into an Iraqi-like environment at forward operating bases to stress the Soldiers," said Honoré. "Our goal is to maximize every minute Soldiers are at the mobilization station with tough realistic training."

Since 9/11, First Army has mobilized and trained more than 220,000 Soldiers for Global War on Terrorism missions.

Although First Army is actively engaged in mobilization and training, it also plays an important role under the new National Response Plan in its role of providing defense support to civil authorities in a Federal emergency.

## First black paratrooper pins grandson, airborne school welcome sight for old Soldier

*Story and photo by Spc. Brian Trapp/The Bayonet*

***“Back in the ’40s, there were two armies, a colored one and a white one.” — Retired Col. Joseph Murchison, president of the 555th Parachute Infantry Association, Inc.***

The first black paratrooper in the Army, retired 1st Sgt. Walter Morris, earned his wings 60 years ago last month. He pinned those very wings on his grandson at an Airborne graduation Jan. 30 on Fryar Drop Zone.

“When he pinned on my wings, he said he was proud of me and this was one of the best days of his life,” said 1st Lt. Michael Fowles, executive officer, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, Fort Jackson, S.C.

“Then he said he’d kill me if I lost his wings. I said I would protect them with my life,” Fowles said. Those small, silver wings represent the first steps to integrating the Army and eventually America.

“The Army was totally segregated, and we were the first colored outfit to be integrated into a combat division,” said retired Col. Joseph Murchison, president of the 555th Parachute Infantry Association, Inc.

“I think we led the way to integration. Without the 555th and Morris’ efforts, we would not have the diverse military and civilian society we do now,” Murchison said.

When Morris was stationed at Fort Benning, he was the first sergeant for a company of black Soldiers, tasked with clean-up details and guard duty for the jump school. Morale in the unit was low.

One day, Morris gathered the Soldiers, and when the white Soldiers left the field in the afternoon, he took his Soldiers out on the calisthenics field for training. He did this daily, and the Soldiers started getting in better shape and holding their heads higher.

“We were doing pushups, drills and jumping out of the mock airplane, doing what the white Soldiers were doing,” Morris said.

One evening, the commanding general drove by as these black Soldiers were on the calisthenics field. The next day, Morris was called to the general’s office.

*See Paratrooper, p 11*

## Combat lifesaving (Cont.)

“I grew up around medicine. The skills I learned here will help me augment the corpsman (the naval equivalent of a medic) and increase the survivability of myself and others.

Personnelman 2nd Class (PN2) Stephen J. Stewart, chief of police of Marshallville, Ga., before his call-up, is prior Army and was taking the CLS for a second time.



**Sgt. 1st Class Damon R. Nunn Sr., a medic assigned to the First U.S. Army Command Surgeon’s Office, demonstrates the proper angle for the beveled intravenous (IV) needle to be inserted into a vein. Navy reservists scheduled to deploy to the Middle East were required to successfully start an IV on their battle buddy during the Army Combat Lifesaver Course taught by First Army medical trainers. Photo by Phil Manson.**

“Stuff I thought I’d forgotten has come back to me,” Stewart said, “Plus, the training we’re receiving from the Army is much more hands-on than the Navy.”

Storekeeper 2nd Class (SK2) Valerie A. Floyd of Monrovia, Calif., agreed. “Along with the weapons training, this (the CLS) has been the best,” Floyd said.

“In our Navy training, much of it has been in the classroom and pretty much one-way. With the Army trainers, they tell us what we’re going to learn, they show us how to do it and they make us do it,” said Floyd.

Training our citizen Soldiers (and sailors) to fight and win America’s battles – and training them to survive on the modern battlefield. Developing trust and speed with tough, realistic training. That is First U.S. Army’s non-negotiable contract with the American people.

## **Pennsylvania Guard unit has rich military heritage**

### **Camp Shelby part of division's long history**

*By Janet Braswell*

The Pennsylvania National Guard Soldiers training at Camp Shelby bring with them a heritage that stretches back to the Revolutionary War and includes a brief stint at Camp Shelby 60 years ago. And the 28th Infantry Division's place in the history books is continuing during the war on terror, said Col. John Gronski, commander of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, which was formed around the 2nd Brigade, 28th Infantry Division.

"The 28th Division is one of the most heavily deployed National Guard divisions since 9-11," Gronski said. "As a matter of fact, shortly after 9-11, I had the privilege of taking about 2,000 Soldiers from the 28th Division over to Europe to do security missions over there at U.S. Army-Europe installations." The 2nd Brigade will deploy to Iraq this summer, adding to a record that includes service in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Operation Desert Storm and Bosnia. The 28th Infantry Division demobilized after World War II at Camp Shelby, he said.

"We have a history established here," he said.

The 2,200 Pennsylvania Soldiers in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team are augmented by 1,400 troops from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Nebraska, Rhode Island, Utah and Vermont. About 80 percent of the team has arrived at Camp Shelby and is making its way through medical tests, legal requirements and weapons qualification. The Soldier readiness processing is required before the Soldiers begin training in the field as platoons, companies and battalions. The guys that are training us have been there," said Staff Sgt. Deborah Wilkins, 33, of Ligonier, Pa. "It makes the training more realistic."

The staff from the 3rd Brigade/87th Division (Training Support) provides theater immersion training, moving the troops into field situations as a squad or platoon and working up to a full-team exercise. Most of the training is done at forward operating bases where civilian role players stage demonstrations and make the training as real-to-life as possible, said Maj. Art Sharpe of the 3/87th.

Wilkins, platoon sergeant for 21 military police, left two daughters at home with her mother to make the deployment. Her husband, Staff Sgt. Stephen Wilkins, has been in Iraq for about a month with the National Guard's 103rd Armor. "He can communicate but between the time difference and my training, it's hard," Deborah Wilkins said. Both spent 10 years in the Marine Corps before joining the National Guard, but their current deployments mark the first time both have been away from 12-year-old Anna and 10-year-old Kate. "You try to avoid that situation, but when you get the call, you get the call," she said. "I'm comfortable about where they are." Because the brigade is part of an Operation Iraqi Freedom rotation, the Soldiers had time to make necessary personal arrangements, Gronski said. "I'm the type of commander who likes to get out and talk to Soldiers," he said. "I can tell you that morale is extremely high. The Soldiers are confident that the theater immersion training is going to prepare them to go over to Iraq and do their mission in a superb manner and return everybody home safely. That's certainly their goal."

The deployment adds more than a year to the time Master Sgt. Walter Gray, 49, of Johnstown, Pa., has been on military leave from his job at a Postal Service distribution center. "I've been on active duty for about two-and-a-half years with Homeland Security at Beaver Valley Power Station," he said. "Being that I'm assigned to the unit, I'm on my way." Gray has been in the National Guard for 33 years and currently works in intelligence. He's making the deployment so the four adult children and nine grandchildren he and his wife have won't inherit it. "Hopefully, by me going, my children and their children won't have to be taking on the pains I am," he said. Capt. Steven Fischer, 29, of Washington, Pa., commands the brigade's Headquarters Company after four years on active Army duty followed by graduate school and two years in the National Guard.

"I believe it's an important mission we're going to be doing," he said. "The Soldiers are going to be having some good training. I feel confident we'll be able to execute our mission." Training and religious faith will bring him through the deployment, he said.

## Raid nets three suspects

*Story and Photos by  
Staff Sgt. Duane M. Brown  
22nd MPAD*

FORWARD OPERATING BASE COBRA, SABIYAH, Iraq - Three Iraqi men were detained Feb. 21 during a raid on homes of suspected improvised explosive device makers in Sabiyah, Iraq.

Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, 3rd Squadron, 278th Regimental Combat Team, led the way by coordinating a night mission involving Iraqi Armed Forces, U.S. ground troops, helicopters and M2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles.

"We entered the homes and grabbed the subjects right off the bat," said 1st Lt. Gregory W. Smith, platoon leader and native of Nashville, Tenn. "After detaining the individuals, we began questioning them and conducted simultaneous searches of their homes."

Detainees were questioned for intelligence pertaining to the network of anti-Coalition resistance in Sabiyah. Homes were also searched for IED building material and any documentation that could lead to other members of the IED network.

"Mainly we just got a few more IED makers off the streets," Smith said. "These guys, both U.S. and IAF Soldiers, did a wonderful job." A lot of the reason for the 278th success goes all the way back to the states, long before the mission briefing and rehearsals, said Sgt. Leo Shinkle, a unit gunner. "After a six month train-up at Camp Shelby, Miss., I think we came to Iraq ready to go," said the native of Gallatin, Tenn. By conducting these types of missions, offenders in Sabiyah are getting a clear message.

"Together with the IAF, we are letting offenders know they are not beyond our reach. If they come out and start setting up IEDs, we'll come after them even if it means going to their homes to get them," Shinkle said.



**First U.S. Army trainers in the 3/87th Div (TS) at Camp Shelby, Miss., prepared these Soldiers in the 2nd Platoon, 3rd Squadron, 278th Regimental Combat Team before their deployment to Iraq last fall.**

## First Army trains troops (Cont.)

Methods used by the enemy to detonate an IED can be a simple command-detonated device that is hard-wired or remote-controlled by such common electronic gear as pagers or cell phones. Easily disguised, IEDs can be placed anywhere and are a low-cost method for the maximum yield – in addition to the physical casualties, it is psychological warfare at its most vicious. Honoré assembled his IED tiger team last year to provide a dynamic resource for First Army's trainers. "Because the enemy's tactics are changing on a daily basis, the tiger team's focus is to push the latest tactical IED information down to the trainers on the ground at the mobilization stations," said Sgt. 1st Class Gregory L. Williams Sr., G-3 training NCO.

"Our IED tiger team is key to keeping the training focus current and based on what is happening in theater," said Lt. Col. Sam Tello, First Army chief of training, G-3. "Our internal IED newsletter Advance Guard provides important updates weekly. "Our Soldiers must learn to see first, understand first and act first," Honoré said. "Their actions must become intuitive. It could save their lives and those of their comrades."



**Trainers from First Army converged at First Army headquarters to collaborate on their best IED training techniques. IED events are embedded into training each deploying Soldier receives.**





## First unit to deploy with new Army combat uniform

The new Army Combat Uniform (ACU) was issued to more than 4,000 Soldiers of the 48th Infantry Brigade, Georgia Army National Guard, at Fort Stewart, Ga., in conjunction with the Rapid Fielding Initiative (RFI). Part of the troops' issuing took place Feb. 8.

The Brigade recently was activated in January 2005 and will spend three months at Fort Stewart before departing for exercises at the Army's National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. The Brigade is slated to deploy to Iraq in early May.

The 48th previously served a tour in Bosnia in 2001. Soldiers who served during the unit's deployment to Bosnia and elsewhere will be on hand to discuss and compare the ACU to the uniform and gear they used in the past.

ACUs underwent rigorous field-testing and improvements both before and after the first and second Stryker Brigade Combat Teams took earlier uniform to Iraq.

The ACU uniform consists of a jacket, trousers, patrol cap, moisture wicking T-shirt and improved hot weather and temperate-weather desert boots, all of which are part of a new digital, universal camouflage pattern. The ACU is designed to enhance Soldiers' performance by providing the functionality; ergonomics and durability troops in the field need to be more effective in combat and to increase their survivability as they carry out their mission.

The ACU's improvements incorporated direct and continuous involvements suggested by Soldiers throughout the design and evaluation process. The result is a combat uniform with improved functionality and greater Soldier acceptance than the current Battledress Uniform. The ACU also decreases the "out of pocket" cost burden on younger Soldiers by replacing the 3 types of the BDU with a one-weight, wash-and-wear uniform with improved functionality and ergonomics.



Act **FIRST** Return to Main



## Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss



Lt. Col. Frank W. Styles, Jr., Deputy Chief of Staff, Information Management (G-6), reads to students at Fountain Elementary School. Fountain is a Partner-in-Education school with First Army and is also located in Forest Park, Ga.





# First Army celebrates the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Story and Photo by Gayle Johnson, First Army Public Affairs Office*

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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been described as the “peaceful warrior”. His speech delivered on the steps at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. on August 28, 1963 was a decree for our nation to remember and act on the words of our Declaration of Independence: ...that all men are created equal. First Army celebrated the life of Dr. King with a program held at the Getaway Club on January 25, 2005. The program, dedicated to “what does Dr. King’s legacy mean to my life,” was hosted by Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, the Commanding General of First U. S. Army. The master of ceremony was Capt. Clint A. Barnes, Personnel Directorate (G-1). The program included a passionate delivery of King’s “I Have a Dream” speech by Mr. Ronald M. Schultz, Deputy Chief, Personnel and Special Actions Division, Personnel Directorate (G-1). Maj. Vince Mitchell, Public Affairs Office; Sgt. 1st Class Floyd J. Mays, Inspector General’s Office; Staff Sgt. Erica L. Mayberry, Command Group; and Sgt. Alpha O. Jenkins, Information Management (G-6) gave testimonials of what Dr. King’s legacy meant to their lives.



**Participants in First Army's King Day celebration are: (from left) Staff Sgt. Erica L. Mayberry; Sgt. 1st Class Floyd J. Mays; Sgt. Alpha O. Jenkins; Mr. Ronald M. Schultz; Mrs. Diane Rodriguez-Burton (in purple); Maj. Vince Mitchell; Capt. Clint A. Barnes; Master Sgt. Sharon H. Williams.**

Maj. Mitchell said Dr. King and the other heroes of the Civil Rights movement stood up for what was right. “They asked themselves, ‘if not me, then who; if not now, then when?’ said Mitchell. “Dr. King and the others helped my parents instill in my siblings and me no sense of inferiority (or superiority) and for me to instill in my children the same,” said Mitchell.

“I was born in a small town in Oregon. I really didn’t experience a multicultural environment until I was a teenager,” said Sgt. First Class Mays. “Yet, as I grew older I began to realize that not everyone had the door held wide open for them so that they could attain the American Dream.” This is where Dr. King touched me. His words about the dream and the reality resonate to me. I, like Dr. King, believe that the bank of justice is not bankrupt and that all Americans are entitled to an unalienable right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. To do less does not live up to the founding principles of this nation.”

When asked to make comments at this year’s program, Staff Sgt. Mayberry said she had to really ponder because she is from a younger generation than those who endured so many struggles and hardships. “It is easy for me to take for granted the freedoms which were already established by the time I was born,” said Mayberry. In her remarks, Mayberry said Dr. King meant so many things to so many people of so many races. He fought for a cause that at sometimes had to seem impossible to accomplish and he never gave up, all the while fostering a non-violent approach.

“We must ensure that future generations realize that freedom is not free,” she said. Mayberry charged everyone to keep the dream alive. “Stand up and speak out. If you stand for nothing, you’ll fall for anything.”

“Where do you think this great nation would be if it had not been for the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King?” asked Sgt. Jenkins. “Dr. Martin Luther King provided this nation with a road map so that not only African Americans, but all races, could locate and share harmoniously in the abundance of this great democracy.” Sgt. Jenkins honors Dr. King because he showed the way to mend broken fences and to move on in building this land of the free, rather than destroying it with racism, hatred, and violence. Jenkins stated, “Although we have made some tremendous achievements over the years, we still need to keep Dr. King’s dream alive. Thank You, Dr. Martin Luther King for being the drum major who was able and ready to lead this great nation to greater heights through love and peace. We shall overcome!” This outstanding program was enhanced by the musical talents of Master Sgt. Sharon H. Williams, Personnel Directorate (G-1) who sang the national anthem and Mrs. Diane Rodriguez-Burton, Chief, Civilian Personnel Advisory Division (G-1). Mrs. Rodriguez-Burton led the audience in singing “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” “Study history and recognize lessons learned so that mistakes of the pass will not be repeated. Let us not forget the dream articulated by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.” said Honoré in closing remarks.



## Army budgets for 2006 and 2007 include raise for Soldiers

By Eric Cramer

Soldiers will get an across-the-board 3.1 percent pay raise in 2006 under a proposed budget released by U.S. Army officials Feb. 4.

The Army's proposed 2006 and 2007 budgets provide for barracks modernization, equipment upgrades and increases in personnel, while setting a foundation for fighting the Global War on Terrorism, Army officials said.

The Army budget for fiscal year 2006 is \$100 billion, with a proposed \$111.4 billion for fiscal 2007, Army officials said during meetings with media Feb. 4.

The budget maintains zero "out of pocket" expenses for Soldiers' housing and continues the Residential Communities Initiative privatizing family housing on more installations.

Fiscal year 2006 will see \$716 million allotted to the Whole Barracks Modernization program with an additional \$726 million the following year. Both budgets also contain additional funding for the construction of on-post family housing.

Outside the personnel arena, the budget sets aside 32 percent for operations and maintenance. The Army will spend 12 percent of its budget on procurement.

Among the high-profile items funded in the proposed budget is the continuation of the Stryker armored vehicle. The Army plans \$875 million for the Stryker program in 2006, and an additional \$726 million in 2007. This funding will buy 240 vehicles for Stryker Brigade Combat Team 6, fields SBCT 5, and sustains SBCT 4.

The Army will also spend about \$800 million over two years to fund modifications to the M1 Abrams tank and its engines.

The budgets also continue to fund development of the Future Combat System, a network of systems designed to allow Soldiers, commanders and support personnel to communicate efficiently. The budget supports this systems development, and the development of manned and unmanned ground and aerial vehicles and sensors the system will use when it is deployed.

Research Development Test and Evaluation efforts include the initial operational testing of a unit of action equipped with FCS, and continued development of the Joint Tactical Radio System.

In Army aviation, the budget sets aside \$684 million in 2006 to provide upgrades to the AH-64 Apache helicopter, and another \$820 million for the following year.

In 2006, the Army plans to buy 41 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters at a cost of \$510 million – the following year an additional 45 UH-60s for \$666 million.

The proposed budgets also fund the rebuilding of the dual-rotor CH-47 Chinook helicopter into the CH-47F configuration, and for buying several new CH-47Fs. The Army budgets \$651 million for the Chinook fleet in 2006, and \$588 million in 2007.

The budget for both years includes increased purchases of ammunition and missiles for use in the training and field environments.

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## Soldier death benefit to rise

*Sgt. 1st Class David Evans*

Sgt. 1st Class David Evans has seen death take its toll on families. The current "death gratuity" for being killed in a combat zone, like Iraq, is \$12,420.

The Bush administration proposes raising that amount to \$100,000.

Democrats would like to extend the benefit further, to include all soldiers killed while on active duty. The government would also pay for \$150,000 in life insurance for troops. Veterans groups and many in Congress have been pushing for such increases.

Soldiers already can buy into a life insurance program, subsidized by the government, which would provide another \$250,000 in death benefits.

The administration proposes raising the amount of subsidized insurance to \$400,000, according to the Associated Press.

"If it happened, for some of these soldiers, especially the ones who are just getting started and have a young family, it would be difficult to support a family," Evans said. "It would be extremely beneficial to raise the benefit."



**Retired 1st Sgt. Walter Morris poses next to his grandson, 1st Lt. Michael Fowles, at the Airborne School graduation.**

## Paratrooper (Cont.)

“When I walked into the office, I was scared to death,” Morris said. “As a first sergeant, getting a call to the CG’s office, I wondered what I did.

“He asked me why all these black Soldiers were out on the field in the afternoon,” Morris said.

“I said, ‘Well, (when) we go on the field and do the same training as the white Soldiers, and we pretended to be paratroopers, it raised the morale,’” he said.

“The CG was impressed and told me about orders for a test company for black paratroopers, the 555th Paratrooper Company,” Morris said. “He asked me if I wanted to be the first sergeant.” Morris jumped at the chance, and a few weeks later, he graduated as one of the first 17 black paratroopers. As the company first sergeant, he was the first to sign in on the company rolls.

“The Army opened the doors, and we had blacks coming in by the hundreds to be paratroopers,” Morris said. “We had so many, our company had to become a battalion.”

Sixty years later, the parachutes and airplanes have changed, but the experience remains the same: frightening. The first week, ground week, Fowles called his grandfather to tell him about his experiences.

“He said he did the 34-foot tower and was scared,” Morris said. “I said, ‘We were all scared.’” “He was very excited when I did my first jump,” Fowles said. “It was great. I got to be the first one out of the bird.

“A lot of people say they don’t remember their first jump, but I did,” Fowles said. “I went out and got into the tight body position. I counted to four, but the chute opened at three — and that was a confident feeling — then I floated down for a minute and had a great landing.”

If it’s true most don’t remember their first jump, it didn’t hold for Morris, either.

“I remember every second of my first jump, and they were (all) scary,” Morris said. Before Fowles’ final jump, Morris, Murchison and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Sid Brown, all 555th members, visited the hangar to see the Soldiers. When the visitors were introduced to the company, they received a standing ovation in an otherwise silent building.

“Seeing him in the hangar was the most wonderful feeling I’ve had in my life,” Morris said. When Morris met Fowles, in his uniform and parachute, “I thought, ‘Just yesterday he was in diapers, now he’s in jump boots.’”

Fowles always knew what his grandfather did, but he didn’t always understand the scope of it. “I didn’t join the Army until I was 22, and he was the only other person in the family who was military,” Fowles said. “I didn’t completely understand what it meant to be a paratrooper. I was just proud that he was the first black paratrooper. Now I have a greater understanding.

“I always looked up to him,” he said. “Not only for what he did in the military, but for what he did as a man for his family and the community. He sacrifices a lot of time for other people.” Fowles said he feels “a great debt to him” and had to go “and follow the leadership he gave years ago.”







Pictured here is the INMARSAT antenna parabolic dish that is a self-tracking mobile satellite antenna - meaning that the antenna automatically tracks the satellite while the vehicle is on the move.

This shows the Dell D800 laptop ISDN connection while talking on Secure Terminal Equipment (STE) which allows secure and non-secure communications. Also pictured is a mobile VTC terminal (Scotty) that allows video teleconferencing while the vehicle is moving. The terminal equipment is connected through the M4 satellite transceiver at data rates up to 64 Kbps ISDN.



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